REMARKS

This AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111 is filed in reply to the outstanding Office Action of March 14, 2003, and is believed to be fully responsive thereto for reasons set forth below in greater detail.

Responsive to paragraph 3 of the Official Action, an INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT is being filed herewith.

Responsive to paragraphs 4 and 5, a new Abstract has been substituted.

Responsive to paragraph 6, the usage of trademarks in the specification has been reviewed, and is believed to be proper, with the trademarks being capitalized or not as they are actually used as trademarks, as shown in the publications of the IDS.

Responsive to paragraphs 7 and 9, new claims 30-32 have been written in independent form, claims 31 and 32 are in a Beuregard type format, and claim 30 is a system claim and is not a single means claim.

Responsive to paragraphs 10 and 11, new claims 18-32 have been rewritten to obviate the many points of rejection of claims 1-17.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of the claims herein over the prior art, including Gabbitta et al, Ackroff et al and Topff et al, particularly in view of the more detailed and understandable form of new claims 18-32 and the following comments on the distinctions and advantages of the present invention relative to the prior art.

New claim 18 points out much more clearly:

that the distributed application comprises a plurality of business processes and that each business process in turn comprise a plurality of activities;

that an event server is handling hardware and/or software related error events occurring generally within the system;

that for each error event, those impacted business processes and activities within those impacted business processes are determined which are impacted by said error event; refer for instance to p 29, par 2; lines 7 to 15; par extending between p 32 to 33; p 35, par 2, lines 5 to 14.

This last aspect is an essential element which clearly distinguishes the present invention from the prior art. While prior art systems just display the error event, the present invention provides an impact analysis on the individual activities within each business process (due to the available knowledge on the internal structure of each business process).

The results of these impact analyses are then displayed, presenting not only the basic error event (the "cause"), but also by presenting the effect/impact of this error event in terms of the impacted activities of the process model.

New claim 22 sets forth more clearly that a component within the WFMS, namely the process monitor, is doing the impact analysis and is responsible for the display/presentation step of claim 18 (par extending between p 32 to 33, p 35, par 2, lines 5 to 14). In other words, it is not the SMS which performs the impact analysis of course the SMS has to notify (event action) the WFMS on the occurrence of an error event. This represents a first embodiment of the communication bridge, which does not require modification of the SMS (p 35, par 2, lines 5 to 14).

Regarding claims 22-26, the rules are meant to deal with the results of the impact analysis of the error event, such as to issue an alert and to even take corrective actions, including reassigning of work to different people, to allow the workflow to continue etc.; refer for instance

to p 35, par 3, lines 6 to 20, in connection with par extending between p 36 to 37; but see also p 27, par 2; p 32, par 3.

Regarding claim 26, refer to the comments given in connection with claim 22. Moreover, here the WFMS is still performing the impact analysis, but instead of performing the display/presentation step by the WFMS, the WFMS communicates the results back to the SMS in the form of events for which event actions are defined in the SMS, which then are responsible to perform the display/presentation step in the context of the SMS enterprise console (for instance p 34, par 1 to p 35, par 3).

Regarding claims 31-32, these Beauregard format claims now explicitly repeat the language of the method claims.

Gabbita et al

Gabbita represents only general background art on WFMS which has already introduced by the current specification. It follows clearly from Figure 2 in combination with c 8, line 62 and beyond that this document only relates to the processing of a certain process instance within a WFMS. Moreover the document simply provides the teaching of speeding up the execution of a certain process instances to achieve predefined deadlines or targets in case so-called "Jeopardy points" are reached; refer for instance to c 12, line 23 and beyond.

This document does not have a single word about SMS or the problems of combining SMS and WFMS technology; and does not address the impact analysis mentioned above, wherein a received error event is analyzed to determine the impact of this error event on individual activities within process models of business processes.

Ackroff et al

    Ackroff represents only general background on WFMS which is discussed and introduced extensively by the current specification without any relationship to the present invention which combines SMS and WFMS technologies.
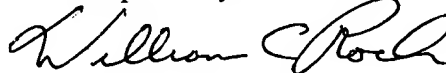
Topff et al

    Topff represents only general background on SMS as presupposed by the current invention for instance on p 8 to 9, p 26, par 5 to p 27, par 2.

    This document does not have a single word about the possibility of combining SMS and WFMS technologies, and does not to talk about how this can be accomplished.

    This document even leads away from the present invention as it is dedicated to the combination of SMS with a help-desk; refer for instance to c 1, lines 40 to 63; c 2, lines 3 to 12; c 2, lines 31 to 42.

    This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might expedite prosecution of this case, it is respectfully requested that he call applicant's attorney at (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,

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